Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Texas

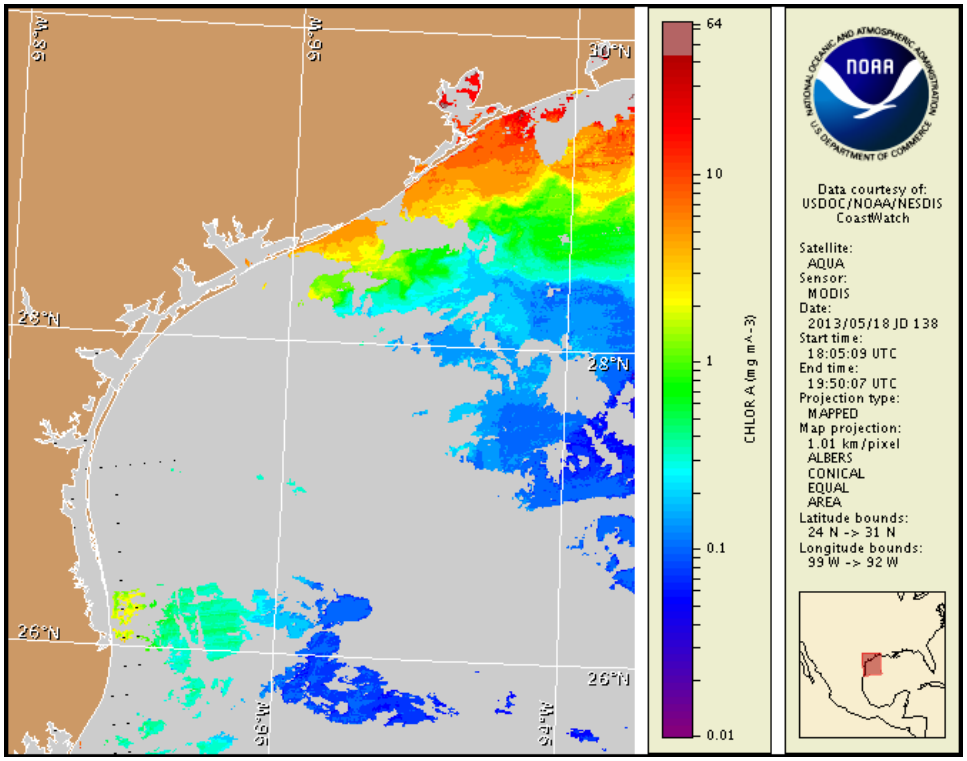
Monday, 20 May 2013

NOAA National Ocean Service

NOAA Satellite and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: Monday, May 13, 2013



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible *K. brevis* HAB areas shown by red polygon(s), when applicable. Points represent cell concentration sampling data from May 10 to 16: red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue (very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). Cell count data are provided by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. For a list of sample providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HAB-OFS bulletin guide:

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

Detailed sample information can be obtained through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at:

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us./landwater/water/environconcerns/hab/redtide/status.phtml

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To see previous bulletins and forecasts for other Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin regions, visit the NOAA Harmful Algal Bloom Operational Forecast System bulletin archive:

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/bulletins.html

Conditions Report

There is currently no indication of a harmful algal bloom of Karenia brevis (commonly known as Texas red tide) at the coast in Texas. No respiratory impacts are expected alongshore the Texas coast today through Tuesday, May 28. For information on area shellfish restrictions, contact the Texas Department of State Health Services.

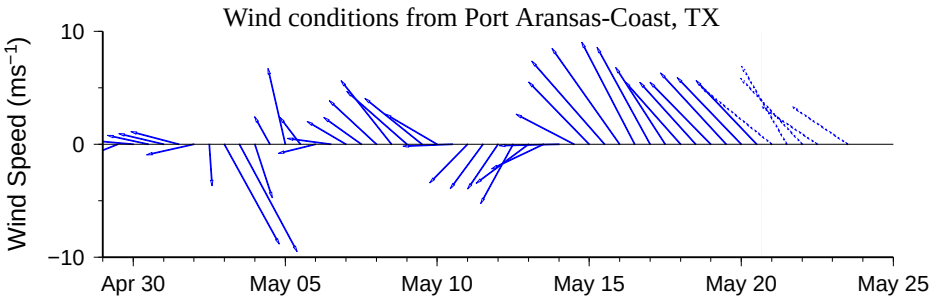
Analysis

Due to the upcoming Federal Holiday, the next bulletin will be issued on Tuesday, May 28.

There is currently no indication of a harmful algal bloom of *Karenia brevis* at the coast in Texas. Recent MODIS Aqua imagery has been partially obscured by clouds along the Texas coast, from the Matagorda Peninsula region to south of the Rio Grande. In MODIS Aqua imagery from 5/18 (shown left), patches of elevated to very high chlorophyll (3 to >20 μg/L) are visible along- and offshore the Texas coastline from Sabine Pass to the Matagorda Peninsula region. Elevated chlorophyll is not indicative of the presence of *K. brevis* and is most likely due to the resuspension of benthic chlorophyll and sediments along the coast.

Forecast models based on predicted near-surface currents indicate a potential maximum transport of 20 km south from the Port Aransas region from May 18-23.

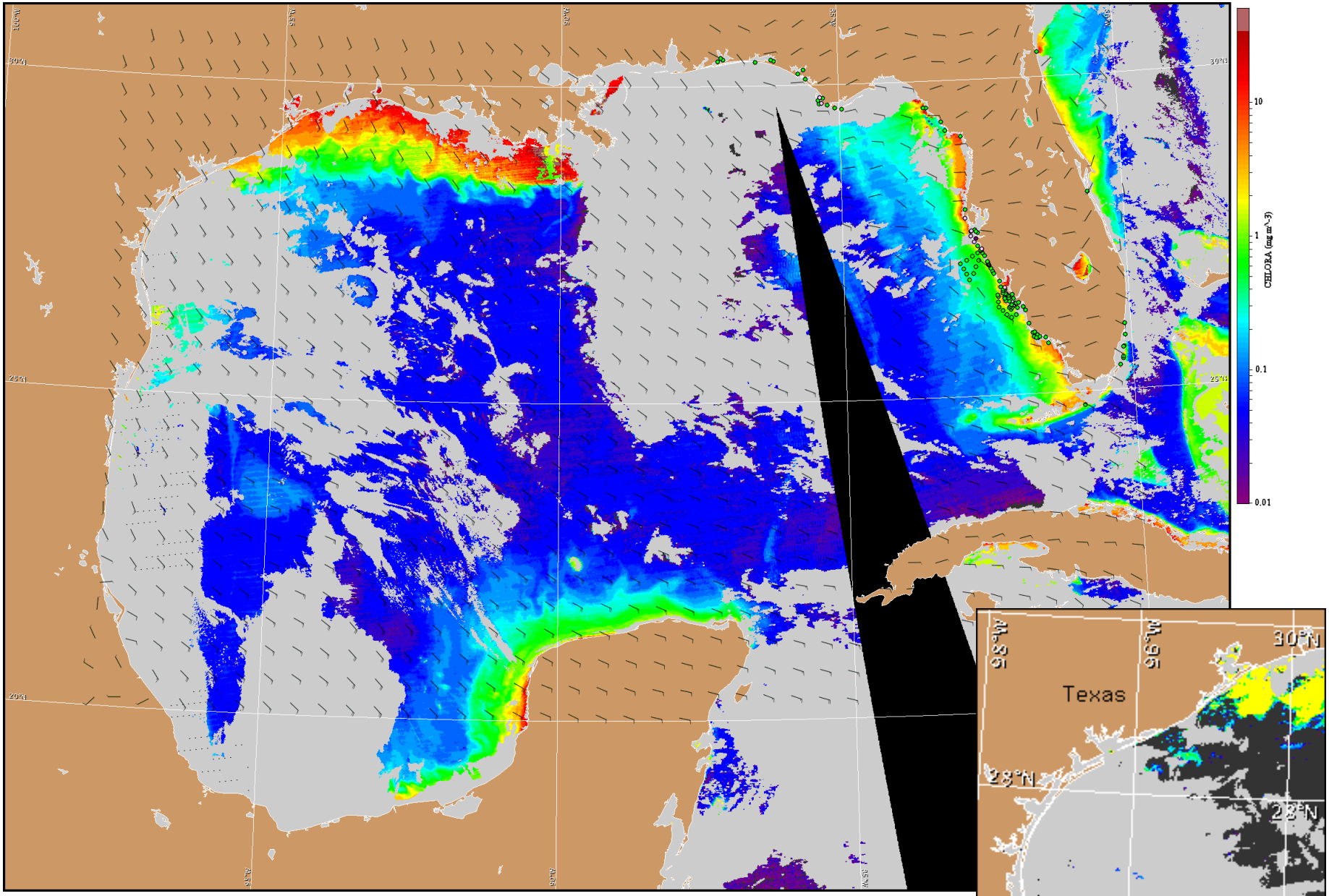
Kavanaugh, Derner



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts. Wind observation and forecast data provided by NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS).

Wind Analysis

Port Aransas: Southeast winds (10-20 kn, 5-10 m/s) today through Friday night.



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for May 21, 2013 12Z with points representing cell concentration sampling data from May 10 to 16: red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue (very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). Cell count data are provided by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. For a list of sample providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HAB-OFS bulletin guide:

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Verified and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas of high chlorophyll concentration shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).